High retail price of imported tea

3577. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retail price charged from users in India is very high while the actual rate of imported tea is only Rs. 45.68 per kg. in the year 2004; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Rs. 45.68 per kg was the weighted average unit C.I.F. (Cost, Insurance and Freight) price of tea imported during 2004. Most of the tea imported into the country is for the purpose of re-export and therefore the price of imported tea has little bearing on domestic sales.

Steps to protect oil seed industry

† 3578. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not only oil seed industry but also the farmers of the country have been affected as a result of importing oil from abroad and they have been selling their produces much less than the support prices thereof;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating ban to be imposed on the import of oil to protect the oil seed industry and the farmers of the country from the ill effects of import; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The production of oilseeds in the country is not sufficient to meet the domestic demands of edible oil, which has been increasing at a pace faster than that of the production due to growth in population and improvement in the standard of living of people. There was a sudden spurt in the import of edible oils after 1998-99 when the import of edible oil was liberalized by placing them under OGL(Open General License) and reducing customs duty on imports.

(b) There is no proposal to ban the import of oil.

(c) Does not arise.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.